

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 16-17 and 27-40 were cancelled. Thus, Claims 1, 4-15, and 18-26 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 15, 18, 20 and 22 have been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Stikvoort et al.* (US 2004/0125240) in view of *Kroeger* (US 5,828,705). Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

The Examiner had indicated that Claims 3-12 and 17-26 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any respective intervening claims. Because the contents of Claims 2-3 and 16-17 have been incorporated within Claims 1 and 15, respectively, the § 103 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 4-15, and 18-26 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicant believes independent Claims 1 and 15 along with their respective dependent claims are distinguished over the cited references under § 103, and should be in condition for allowance.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against Dillon & Yudell Deposit Account No. **50-3083**.

Respectfully submitted,



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